

# **Exhibit E**



The NutraSweet Company

December 13, 2001

Dr. Tetsuo Kono  
General Manager  
Intellectual Property Department  
Ajinomoto Co., Inc.  
1-1, Suzuki-cho, Kawasaki-ku  
Kawasaki, Kanagawa 210-8681  
Japan

Re: Release and License Agreement

Dear Dr. Kono:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 12, 2001 regarding the above-referenced matter.

It is difficult to understand the seriousness of the situation referenced in your letters without having received any information from Ajinomoto that supports its concern. While it would be beneficial to receive any such information prior to a meeting to discuss the Release and License Agreement, in the spirit of maintaining our good relationship with Ajinomoto, The NutraSweet Company will agree to meet with you and your representatives and receive the disclosures in person. I would also like to reiterate that The NutraSweet Company maintains that it is in full compliance with the terms of the Release and License Agreement.

My schedule next week is not firm, but it appears that I will not be in the office during mid-week. I therefore propose we meet on Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. Please let me know if this is acceptable. I, and Mr. Jeff Hoster, will be attending the meeting on behalf of The NutraSweet Company.

Kind regards,

David T. Bowman  
General Counsel